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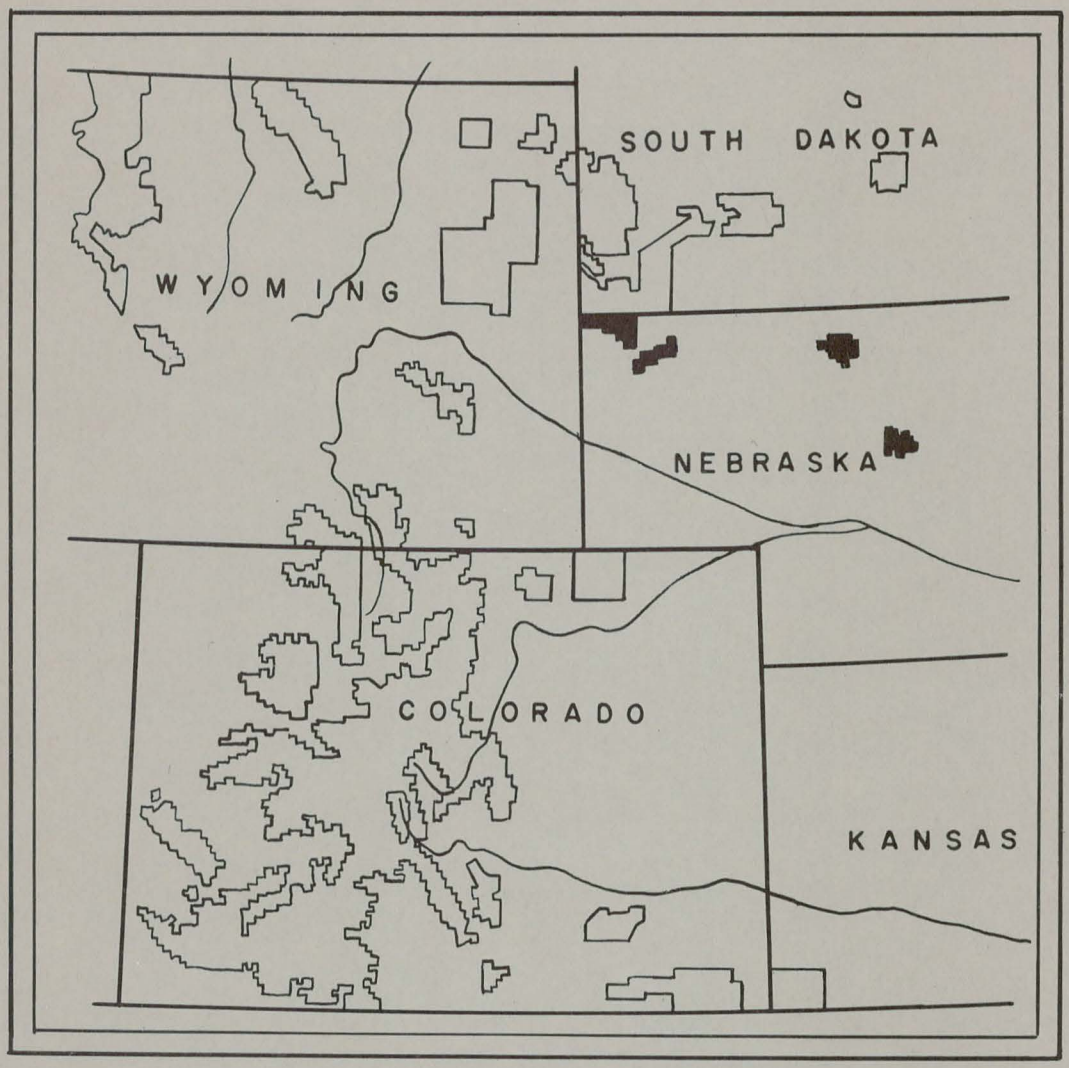
FOREST SERVICE

Region Two



National Forest & National Grasslands
Multiple-Use Land Management Plans
1960 - 1970
for

NEBRASKA SUBREGION

of

Central Rocky Mtn. & Great Plains Region

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NEBRASKA SUBREGION

MULTIPLE-USE LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

1960-1970

CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND GREAT PLAINS REGION

FOREWORD

Lands under Forest Service administration must supply increasingly more products and services if they are to provide optimum public benefits. In order to reach this objective, management plans must be based upon thorough inventories and analyses of the lands, resources, problems, and opportunities.

These multiple use land management plans are intended to guide administration and management of national forest and land utilization areas in the Nebraska subregion.

More specifically, the plans will:

1. Direct administration to harmonize management of multiple resources.

2. Provide for highest use of land and its resources for the greatest long range good of the total public.

3. Integrate and implement uses and resource management.

4. Provide management continuity.

5. Orient changing administrators.

6. Foster sound decisions.

7. Provide a base for general integrating and general functional inspections.

8. Provide a source of information and data for public relations activities.

_____ (Date)

_____ Regional Forester

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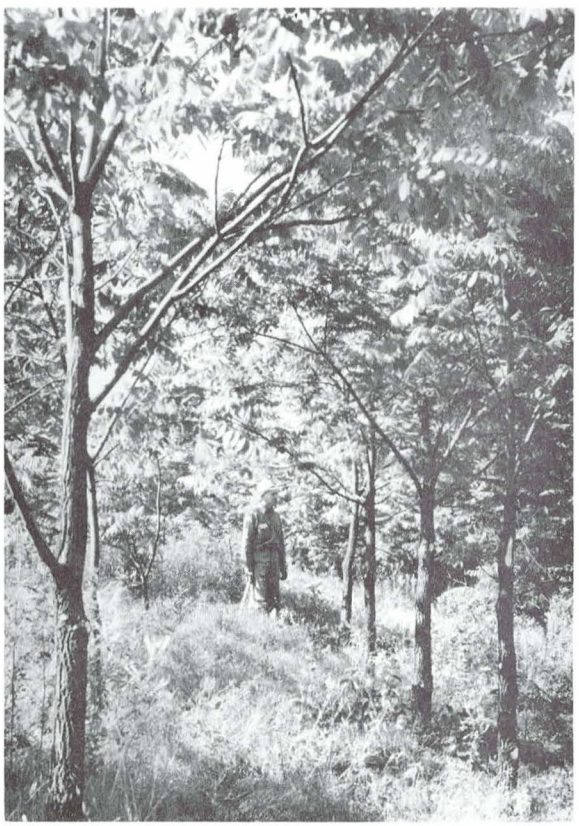
SUBREGION SECTION

I. PLANNING PERIOD

This plan covers the period 1960 through 1969; it is to be reviewed and brought up to date during 1964. A complete reanalysis and redraft is planned for 1970.

Jack Pine Planted in Nebraska – 1911



Walnut Planted During CCC Days on Strip Pits in Kansas

II. GENERAL MANAGEMENT SITUATION

The Great Plains are generally considered to comprise North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, the eastern portions of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico, and the western half of Texas. The Plains area is unique in relation to other portions of the United States and the difference is well illustrated by the flat to rolling topography and in the floral types. The Plains were originally largely devoid of trees except for hardwoods along the principal streams and limited areas of coniferous trees in areas such as the Black Hills of South Dakota and Pine Ridge in Nebraska.

Most of the trees now in the Great Plains have been planted within the last century. The Federal Government has encouraged tree planting by numerous measures such as the Kincaid Act, Clark-McNary Act, Prairie States Forestry Project, Agriculture Conservation Programs, Soil Conservation Service, and Soil Bank Programs.

Since its inception, Forest Service action programs have had a dominant influence upon plains tree planting. Logically, the Nebraska National Forest assumed leadership and continues to play important roles as a demonstration and research area, source of seed, source of coniferous planting stock, and an example of multiple-use land management.

The people living in the Great Plains love trees; they value them for their beauty and for the way they lend color and variety to the landscape; they appreciate them for the protection they afford to farmsteads, livestock, and crops. The concept that forests serve as sylvan communities providing multiple values, is seldom realized or fully understood.

The Great Plains area is quite different from areas which are largely covered with forests, and therefore, management responsibilities for the Nebraska National Forest are unique in the national forest system. Individual and group interests are many and varied and management must be geared accordingly. Management situations logically fall into three principal categories:

1. National Forest Areas

   The Nebraska National Forest is situated in the sandhills of central Nebraska. The Forest was established in 1902, and comprises two separate divisions, the Bessey and Niobrara.

   The sandhills comprise about 1/5 of the total area of Nebraska. These rolling hills are quite generally covered with good stands of native grasses, but pictures taken at the turn of the century show "white caps," or "blowouts" on practically all hilltops. When grass cover is radically disturbed or destroyed large sand blowouts occur where exposed to the wind.

The early settlers soon learned they could not plow, burn or overgraze this sandy land and still hold it from blowing. As a consequence, they voluntarily developed their own conservation movement. Today, the vast majority of these early blowouts have been healed, although others still occur as the result of poor land management practices.

Sound range management developed and practiced on the Nebraska Forest through the years has contributed materially to wise use and betterment of the range resource throughout the entire sandhills area, but much remains to be done. The livestock industry constitutes 90%, or more, of the sandhills economy. Cherry County alone is said to have more cattle than the entire State of Wyoming. The Nebraska National Forest has a higher cattle grazing capacity (per acre) than any other forest in Region 2.

The sandhills are an almost perfect watershed; they are affected by drouth, but have never been known to "fail" during such periods. Very little precipitation runs more than a few feet along the surface before it is absorbed into the sandy soil. The rivers have few branches and are primarily spring fed; they have never been known to fluctuate more than six inches between maximum and minimum depth from year to year. The sandhills furnish a large portion of the ground water recharge and streamflow for eastern Nebraska and, as development of irrigation wells progresses, the sandhills will play an increasingly important role in the agricultural economy of that area.

The plantations of the Nebraska National Forest comprise one of the largest afforestation projects in the Nation, and perhaps the world. These trees were planted on the virgin rolling sandhills and continue to attract world-wide interest.

The sandhills lie in the path of two main waterfowl migration routes and two national wildlife sanctuaries have been established there. While there are no lakes on the Forest, many natural lakes occur in the northerly and westerly portions of the sandhills. The Forest plantations provide habitat for deer and upland birds; antelope have been reintroduced to the sandhills area. Rivers adjacent to the Forest have a potential for fish but fishing is as yet largely undeveloped.

Recreation is an important element on the Bessey Division; accessibility and the unique afforested area influence this use.

2. Land Utilization Areas

The Pine Ridge and Sugar Loaf Land Utilization Projects in the extreme northwest corner of Nebraska were transferred to Forest Service administration in 1954. Government lands are interspersed with private holdings. The Regional Forester has recommended the Pine Ridge Unit be given national forest status.

The Pine Ridge Unit lies along the Pine Ridge escarpment. The escarpment is a prominent physiographic feature of northwestern Nebraska; it is not a part of the sandhills. Here the high plains of the west central portion of the State culminate in a broken and sinous, northerly-facing escarpment with local reliefs of several hundred feet. This promontory trends easterly and westerly for 70 miles or more.

The ground cover is predominantly ponderosa pine which is similar in aspect to the pine stands of the southern Black Hills. The Unit boundaries encompass about 1/3 of the ponderosa pine area of northwestern Nebraska.

Grass lands of several desirable types are interspersed with the flat farm lands and the generally rougher timber lands.

Both the grass lands and timber lands have good potentials under proper management.

The White River, flowing at the base of the escarpment, drains most of the area and the larger tributaries are perennial. These streams support some fish.

The Sugar Loaf Unit is north of the White River and lies below the high plains; it adjoins one South Dakota L.U. Project. This Unit is primarily grassland and, when properly managed, has good grazing potential. The soils are such that accelerated erosion results from serious disturbance of the grass cover and "bad lands" are present in some places. Silt derived from the eroding areas is detrimental to downstream reservoirs.

Chadron and Crawford are the principal towns in the Pine Ridge-Sugar Loaf area; Chadron is the larger. These towns are centers for numerous activities having a direct bearing on Forest Service administration.

3. Information and Education, and State and Private Forestry

Kansas and Nebraska have strong social, political, and economic ties with the other States of Region 2. Nine percent of the forested land in Region 2 is in Kansas and Nebraska and the implications of forestry in the region are many and reciprocal. The people of these two States find recreation in the mountain

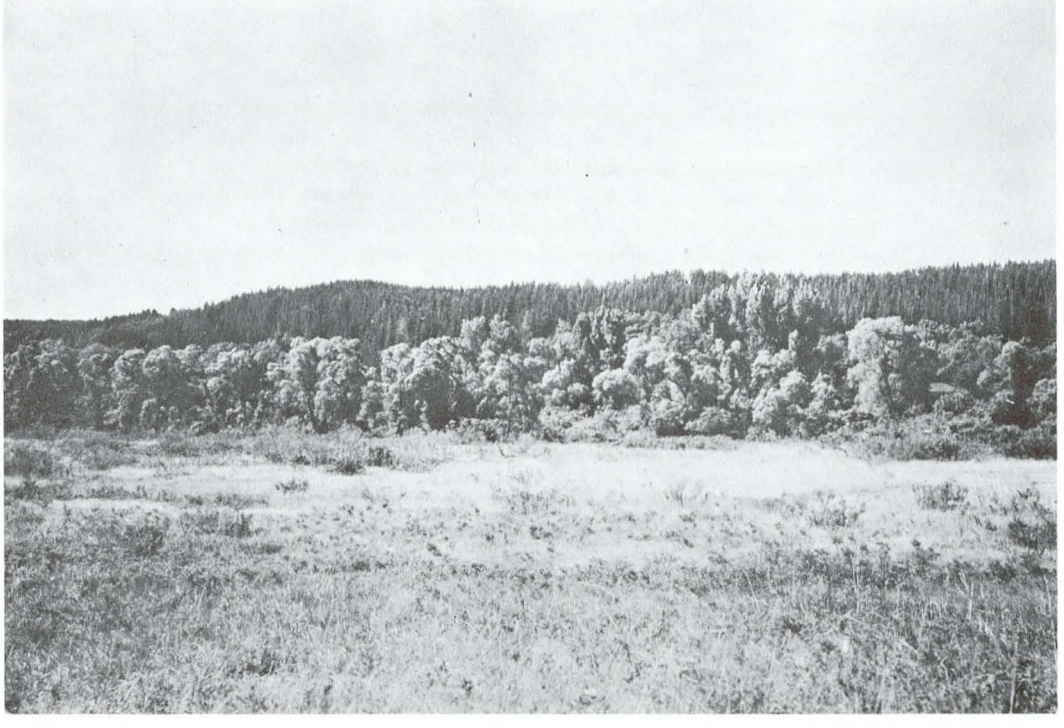
areas; wood products from the westerly States find markets here, and livestock from the mountain areas are fed and marketed. The Missouri, Platte, and Arkansas Rivers, so vital in the economy, rise or derive water from Colorado, Wyoming, and the Black Hills.

Objective forestry in Kansas and Nebraska operates on about three million acres. Direct benefits include soft-wood and hardwood lumber, wood products, Christmas trees, watershed, recreation, shelterbelts, and windbreaks and livestock protection areas. About three million additional acres could be devoted to forestry on lands not well suited to other forms of agriculture or grazing.

Kansas and Nebraska are considered the heartland of America and a large share of the core of U.S.D.A. activities center here. Other governmental departments have commensurate activities and responsibilities. As an important agency of the U.S.D.A., the Forest Service must integrate and correlate its activities with those of other agencies.

In this setting, multiple use land management is an important factor. The Forest Service must continue to exert its influence, and support the over-all, long-range economy by full use of the forestry discipline in the Great Plains.

Bessey District – 1906



Same Location After Reforestation – 1949

III. GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In order to properly manage any natural forest resource, it is necessary that:

(1) Soil be considered the basic and overriding natural resource; and be managed to support or influence all other resources for the continued use and benefit of people.

(2) Close working relationships be maintained with other agencies, organizations, and individuals intimately concerned with managing and protecting that particular resource.

(3) Advantage be taken of all available applicable research findings.

(4) A program of information and education to show the needs and objectives of management of the forest resources be continued.

RANGE

LANDS BEST SUITED FOR GRAZING WILL BE MANAGED FOR OPTIMUM FORAGE PRODUCTION AND A VEGETATIVE COVER COMPATIBLE WITH OTHER RESOURCES.

1. Grazing use and management practices tending to accelerate wind and water erosion will be avoided.

2. As rapidly as possible, range management will be intensified to demonstrate optimum sustained forage yields consistent with other resource values.

RECREATION

TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BEST PUBLIC INTEREST DEMANDS, RECREATION MANAGEMENT WILL BE AIMED TOWARD PROVIDING ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR THE VARIOUS CLASSES AND FORMS OF RECREATION.

1. Recognition will be given to the importance of recreation in the over-all management picture. Management will be directed toward developing all potential recreation values.

2. Interpretive devices will be developed in recreation areas to inform the public about National Forest Multiple Use and Resource Management practices.

TIMBER

NATURAL TIMBERED AREAS WILL BE MANAGED FOR OPTIMUM SUSTAINED PRODUCTION THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF PROPER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, AND IN CERTAIN OTHER AREAS.

1. Tree plantation will be established and intensively and experimentally managed, consistent with the needs, other uses, and resources.

2. Existing tree plantations will be intensively managed to the extent possible for: demonstrations, benefit to other resources, research, seed orchards, and commercial products.

3. Afforestation will be practiced on suitable areas to improve, benefit, and support other resources and uses.

Note: Bessey Nursery will be kept modernized, improved, and enlarged as necessary to provide Region Two of the Forest Service and the Great Plains with conifer planting stock.

SOILS

SOILS MANAGEMENT WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD SOIL STABILIZATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.

1. Resource planning and management will make full use of soil survey data and findings.

2. Preference will be given to management practices which will improve soil conditions and prevent erosion.

3. Management objectives and priorities will be determined within good soil management requirements.

4. Accelerated erosion will be prevented or corrected when related to such factors as resource use, improvement construction and maintenance, and fire.

5. Close working relationships will be maintained with outside agencies, organizations, and individuals directly concerned with soil classification, mapping, and protection.

SPECIAL LAND USE

SPECIAL LAND USES WILL BE LIMITED TO THOSE HAVING PUBLIC VALUE OR PROMOTING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

1. Occupancy and use will be carefully regulated to protect and maintain resource values.

2. Present uses not compatible with management objectives and priorities will be placed on equitable tenure and ultimately eliminated.

3. Use of private land for occupancy type recreation will be encouraged.

4. Permitted roads and trails will conform to and tie in with Forest Service transportation plans.

WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE HABITAT WILL BE MANAGED TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM FOOD AND COVER FOR ALL GAME SPECIES AND UPLAND BIRDS.

1. Through cooperation and coordination with other agencies, game production will be sustained at the highest point consistent with other resource objectives.

2. Wildlife studies will be conducted to determine game range capacities and need for game and bird harvests.

3. Programs will be initiated to obtain basic wildlife habitat data.

4. Wildlife habitat management will be in accordance with data derived from habitat studies.

5. As needed, access to public fishing waters and big game ranges will be provided by means of land exchanges, road and trail programs, exchange of use agreements, and condemnation.

6. Reasonable balance will be maintained between available habitat and big game populations.

7. Wildlife needs will be considered when planning and developing other uses and activities.

8. Game animals and birds will be introduced only in accordance with wildlife policies and plans; transplants will be confined to suitable habitats.

9. Needs of game and domestic stock will be balanced and harmonized.

10. Fishable waters will be improved to the extent possible consistent with available funds, potential of the area and local demand.

11. All game sanctuaries will be analyzed to determine need and desirability; inappropriate sanctuaries will be eliminated, or converted to game management areas with cooperation of the State Game and Fish Commission.

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES

PROVED FINDINGS AND METHODS WILL BE USED AGGRESSIVELY TO CONTROL FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES.

1. Research to control problem insects and diseases will be encouraged and emphasized.

2. All management personnel will cooperate fully with research teams studying forest insects and diseases.

MINERALS

BONA FIDE PROSPECTING, MINING, AND LEASING ACTIVITIES WIIL BE ENCOURAGED; ACTIVITIES LACKING GOOD FAITH WILL BE RESISTED.

1. Bona fide mineral development will be recognized as a proper resource use.

2. Questionable mining activity resulting in damage to national forest or land utilization areas will be subject to restraint pending validity determinations.

3. Gas and oil lease stipulations will fully protect national forest and land utilization interests.

4. Appropriate complaints will be filed against all mining law or mineral lease violations or circumventions.

FIRE

CURRENT FIRE PLANNING WILL GUIDE MODERNIZATION OF FIRE CONTROL PROCEDURES AND EXEMPLIFY DYNAMIC LAND MANAGEMENT.

1. Fire problems will be analyzed currently with particular attention to prevention, fuel treatment, state and private lands, and cooperation with other land management fire control agencies.

2. Through aggressive suppression action and subsequent analysis, fire losses will be held to acceptable minimums.

3. Through good management practices, wildfire incidence will be reduced and fire control improved.

4. Preference will be given to acceptable suppression and pre-suppression devices and methods that result in the least

damage to the resources.

ENGINEERING

HIGH PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO UTILIZE ALL RESOURCES FULLY.

1. Transportation system development will give optimum protection to aesthetic values and capitalize on existing and potential forest values.

2. Transportation routes will be located to avoid unnecessary conflicts with good resource management practices.

3. Construction and maintenance plans will provide for soil stabilization through design, prompt revegetation, and similar measures.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

I&E PROGRAMS WILL BE DIRECTED TO DEVELOP PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION, AND WILL STRESS MULTIPLE USE.

1. Favorable working relationships will be developed with all State and Federal agencies to better inform them of Forest Service objectives, and to understand their responsibilities and objectives.

2. Unified effort by Forest personnel toward I&E objectives will be developed through systematic training and employment of accepted I&E devices.

3. Favorable understanding will be fostered with legislative, educational, and civic groups, farm organizations, the press, radio and television stations, and influential individuals.

LANDS

LAND MANAGEMENT WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING THE LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERN AND ADMINISTERING LANDS ON A COORDINATED BASIS TO OBTAIN PROPER USE.

1. Boundary adjustments, land exchanges, and acquisition will be used to consolidate ownerships. Emphasis will be given to acquiring lands of high multiple use potentials and disposing of lands better suited to private enterprise.

2. Normally, Government lands of high public value or providing essential access will not be exchanged.

3. All existing and proposed administrative and public service sites will be recommended for withdrawal from all forms of entry.

4. High priority will be given to surveying and posting interior and exterior public land boundaries and withdrawn areas.

5. Management policy and direction will normally recognize the need to harmonize land uses between Forest Service managed lands and adjacent lands under other jurisdictions and classifications, or those parcels in private ownership.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

THE FOREST SUPERVISOR WILL COOPERATE WITH THE STATE FORESTERS OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA TO THE MAXIMUM LEGAL EXTENT.

1. Kansas and Nebraska will be encouraged to develop and implement satisfactory forestry programs on State and private lands.

2. State and Private Forestry, and Information and Education programs will be correlated with the State Foresters.

RESEARCH

FOREST PERSONNEL WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE LINCOLN RESEARCH CENTER ON ALL JOINT OPERATIONS.

1. Research will be encouraged to develop programs to resolve important management problems on lands managed by the Nebraska National Forest.

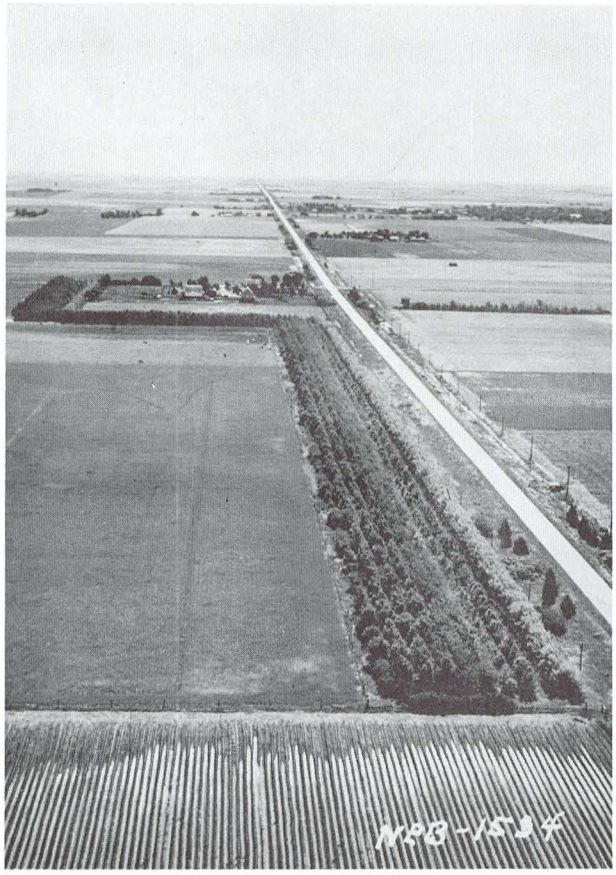
2. In order to provide interim guidelines, administrative studies will supplement formal research.

3. Research relating to forestry objectives in the Great Plains will be encouraged and developed.

RANGER DISTRICT SECTION

IV. MANAGEMENT UNITS

A Management Unit may be defined as an area selected and delineated for specific management purposes. The Nebraska National Forest contains two ranger districts, Bessey and Niobrara. Because of peculiar management conditions and complexities, each district is subdivided into several distinct management units with different objectivities, decisions, and resource priorities.



Shelterbelt Planting in Nebraska

1910 Plantation – Bessey District

BESSEY RANGER DISTRICT PLAN

District Management Situation

The Bessey Ranger District is coextensive with the Bessey Division of the Forest. It comprises approximately 90,000 acres and is all Government owned. This District is 52 miles west of Broken Bow, 65 miles north of North Platte, and 144 miles east of Alliance. The area lies just west of the confluence of the Middle Loup and Dismal Rivers and, as these streams diverge upstream, they approximate the northerly and southerly division boundaries, respectively.

The soil is almost entirely aeolian sand but some intercalated clay lenses occur. The mean annual precipitation is between 21 and 22 inches, of which most occurs from April to September. Temperatures range from -34 to 109 degrees; the reliable frost-free period is from May 10 to September 30.

State Highway No. 2 from Grand Island to Alliance closely follows the north bank of the Middle Loup River. The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad from Lincoln to Billings roughly parallels the highway. The town of Halsey is adjacent to the Division on the northeast and the town of Thedford lies adjacent on the northwest.

Some 30,000 acres of the Bessey District have been planted to trees at one time or another. Approximately 23,000 acres of these plantings were successful and now support tree growth. Major planting activities ceased about ten years ago but minor plantings continue and others are planned.

Although some thinning was done by the CCC's during the 1930's, the remaining stands are much in need of this treatment. The Jack Pine stands have reached the stage where fence posts can be obtained in the thinning process. A timber survey in 1959 showed that 7,600 M.L.F. of post and pole material is available and ready for market. This is equivalent to at least 1,000,000 fence posts and poles.

Since the first tree planting before the turn of the century, fire prevention and control have been ever present problems. A serious fire in 1910 destroyed virtually all previous plantations. The entire plantation area is now surrounded by a major fire break, augmented by several interior breaks. These breaks consist of three disced trails 100 to 200 feet apart. Maintenance of these fire breaks is a heavy drain on finances; there are undoubtedly several other cheaper methods which would provide the same protection. Scott Lookout Tower is situated on one of the highest points within the district and provides good visual coverage of the entire plantation area. This tower is a favorite tourist attraction.

The Bessey Nursery near Halsey is one of the oldest and most notable of the Forest Service nurseries; presently it covers 45 acres. The soil is excellent, water is abundant, the growing season is relatively long, transportation facilities are adequate, and premimum planting stock is produced. The nursery is well improved; equipment and methods keep pace with modern trends. By purchase of adjoining lands along the Middle Loup River, the nursery could be expanded to almost any desired size.

Grazing is permitted in both the planted and unplanted areas. Grass is one of the District's most important resources. Drilled wells provide water for range stock and, once drilled, these facilities largely dictate management practices on the various allotments. The grazing situation is not static and there is much that can and should be done to improve the range resource.

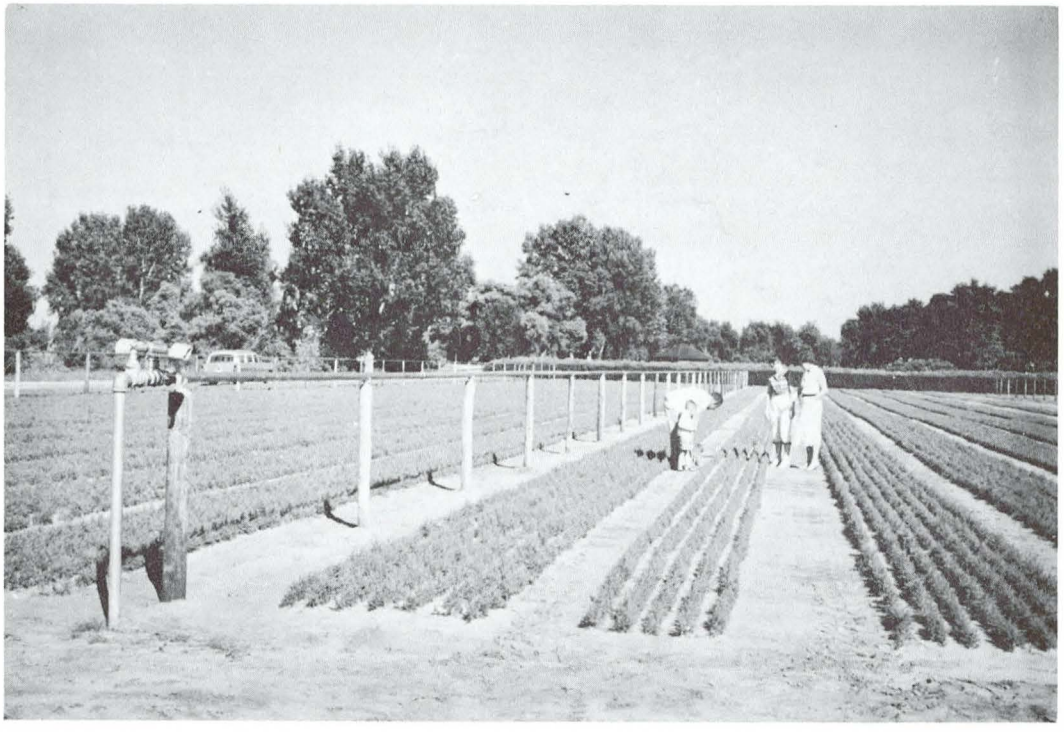
Since 1901, when one doe deer was known in the area, the local deer herd has increased to about 500. The first hunting was permitted in 1951 and several open seasons have been allowed since then. Antelope are being planted in the vicinity. As might be expected, the forested area is a haven for bird life. Some 250 species of birds have been identified at one time or another and a substantial population of Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken is well established. Some warm water fish are native to the adjacent streams, and lakes of the sandhills are capable of supporting a good warm water fish population. Some 1,120 different vertebrate species have been identified on this district.

Picnic grounds and campgrounds have been established adjacent to the nursery and additional sites have been set aside for future development. A swimming pool is maintained at the principal picnic ground. The State 4-H Club Foundation is now raising money for an organization camp to be used by the 30,000 4-H members. While 4-H groups will have priority to use this camp, other organizations or groups may use it by arrangement. A site for this camp has been set aside just west of the nursery. The camp will be constructed and operated under a Forest Service special use permit. Plans anticipate the camp will be used throughout the year.

An oiled Forest highway extends from State Highway No. 2 near Halsey to the Scott Lookout Tower, a distance of approximately 3.8 miles. The Loup Road begins east of the lookout tower, swings generally around the district, and returns to a point near the beginning where it joins the Forest highway. The remainder of the District is traversed by a network of vehicle trails in various stages of development; some troublesome sectionshave been surfaced with clay and gravel and on occasion with the use of hay.

There has never been any mineral development in this portion of the sandhills.

Bessey Picnic Ground



Bessey Nursery

GPO 837070

DISTRICT MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

RIVER FRONT UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Timber (Nursery) - Primary

Recreation - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Produce the necessary quantity and quality of planting stock to meet needs of the National Forest and Great Plains programs.

2. Provide necessary recreation facilities.

3. Create and maintain an example of multiple use land management.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Range

1. Exclude livestock.

Recreation

1. Plant suitable areas not needed for nursery.

2. Design recreational improvements to avoid conflicts with nursery operations.

3. Develop recreation areas to meet the needs of both the local and traveling public.

Timber

1. Provide plantings near nursery to blend with natural surroundings.

2. Manage timber stands to maintain aesthetic and recreational values.

3. Complete slash disposal around recreational development and along roads to maintain aesthetic values and reduce fire hazards.

Soils

1. Stabilize and maintain ground cover by revegetation and mulching; use hard surface for roads and trails.

2. Require preventive and restrictive measures for lands under special use permits. Require bonds to assure prompt performance.

Special Land Uses

1. Provide organized public recreation by means of special use permits.

2. Direct commercial uses to private lands.

Wildlife

1. Eliminate beaver.

2. Keep big game and upland birds away from nursery and recreational plantings.

3. Use chemicals and poisons for predator control so as to prevent loss of wildlife, and to insure public safety.

4. Develop fish habitat.

Forest Insects and Disease

1. Eliminate harmful insects and disease.

Minerals

1. Withdraw the entire unit from entry under the mining law.

Fire

1. Emphasize fire control and prevention.

2. Plant fire resistant vegetation on firebreaks and along roadsides.

Engineering

1. Revegetate cuts, fills, borrow pits, and other disturbed areas with grass, shrubs, and trees.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public about the Nebraska N.F. and other National and State Forestry activities and programs.

Lands

1. Acquire privately owned land between north forest boundary and State Highway No. 2 for nursery, recreation, and related activities.

State and Private Forestry

1. Support, encourage, and cooperate with Kansas and Nebraska Forestry Programs.

2. Assist the Nebraska State Forester in the distribution of nursery stock.

Research

1. Cooperate with the Lincoln Research Center in research operations.

Looking West From Scott Lookout Plantation Unit

Forest Highway Completed in 1959 Plantation Unit

PLANTATION UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Timber - Primary

Wildlife - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Manage the land to produce a maximum quantity of wood products.

2. Provide an adequate seed source for nursery stock.

3. Create and maintain an example of good multiple use land management.

4. Manage wildlife so as to draw it away from the River Front Unit, and maintain proper numbers of the species.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

1. Manage livestock ranges to obtain maximum sustained production consistent with timber and wildlife objectivities.

2. Manage winter use of the livestock range to improve vegetative condition and wildlife habitat.

3. Exclude cattle along Forest Highway No. 3 by means of fencing.

Recreation

1. Limit recreation to aesthetics along the Forest Highway and Trails 222, and 223, the overlook, public picnic site at Lookout, and interpretive signs.

Timber

1. Adopt silviculture practices that will benefit timber as well as other resources and uses.

2. Dispose of slash by chipping; chips will be used as organic material to improve soil mantle.

3. Reforest cut-over areas.

Soils

1. Give preference to practices which improve soils for forest growth.

Special Land Uses

1. Correlate special land uses with other forest resources.

Wildlife

1. Correlate wildlife management with other forest resource values.

2. Cooperate with other agencies to introduce additional wildlife species in order to provide variety.

Forest Insects and Diseases

1. Avoid detrimental effects to wildlife when eliminating harmful insects and diseases.

Minerals

1. Withdraw the forest highway zone and lookout area from entry under the mining laws.

Fire

1. Enforce closure order.

2. Provide maximum protection for all forest resources and uses.

3. Dispose of slash along Forest Highway, Loup Road, Trails 222 and 223.

4. Utilize or dispose of dead trees in plantations.

5. Mow grass along firebreaks and roads for fire control.

Engineering

1. Revegetate cuts, fills, borrow pits, and other disturbed areas with grass, shrubs, and trees.

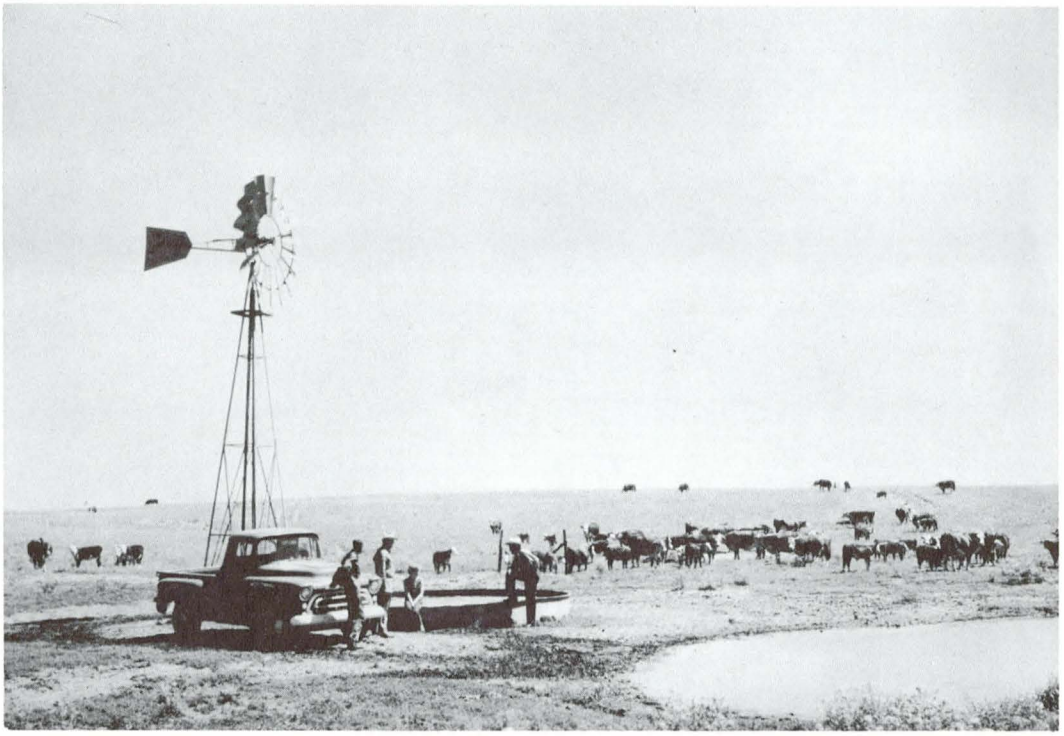
2. Construct roads and trails for timber and fire control access.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public about the forest programs and activities under multiple use management.

Research

1. Correlate research activities with forest resources and uses.



Range Water Development – Dismal Unit

Typical Grazing Land – Dismal Unit

DISMAL UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Range - Primary

Timber and Wildlife - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain and improve the soil and vegetative cover.

2. Develop and demonstrate improved range management practices.

3. Develop timbered areas for livestock and game protection and demonstration on selected sites, primarily on north and east slopes, consistent with other resource values.

4. Provide food and habitat for a predetermined wildlife population.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Range

1. Develop range management practice such as deferred and rotation grazing to improve carrying capacity for both livestock and wildlife.

2. Bring all usable range, as determined by range analysis, to maximum production through sound range management practices and use of physical improvements.

3. Revegetate blowouts and prevent their reccurrence.

4. Develop areas to demonstrate deferred and rotated grazing practices, including winter grazing units.

5. Prevent blowouts by use of fences, soil cements, windbreak plantings, and similar devices.

Recreation

1. Protect aesthetic values.

2. Maintain natural area.

3. Develop recreation areas along the Dismal river as needed and as roads are developed.

Timber

1. Plant trees on suitable north and east slopes to benefit range and wildlife management.

2. Make plantings of tree species not used heretofore, for experimental purposes.

Soils

1. Maintain a vegetative cover to prevent blowouts.

Special Land Uses

1. Issue special use permits only for the benefit of range and wildlife management.

Wildlife

1. Fence and plant around water sources as necessary for wildlife.

2. Provide exclosures by fencing pasture corners and other suitable locations; plant browse, trees, and legumes.

3. Improve habitat and management practices for the Greater Prairie Chicken.

4. Protect and maintain grouse "booming" grounds and "heronries" for herons.

5. Use extreme caution in predator control to safeguard wildlife and the public.

Forest Insects and Disease

1. Eliminate harmful insects and disease.

Fire

1. Plant fire resistant vegetation on firebreaks and along roadsides. Give preference to species suitable for wildlife food.

2. Enforce closure order.

3. Mow grass along roads, trails, and firebreaks as a fire control measure.

Engineering

1. Revegetate cuts, fills, borrow pits, and other disturbed areas with grass, shrubs, and trees.

2. Construct roads and trails for range and wildlife management and fire control access.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public about the forest programs and activities under multiple use management.

Lands

1. Acquire land south of present boundary to Dismal River in selected locations and post boundary.

State and Private Forestry

1. Cooperate with State forest agencies.

Research

1. Correlate research activities with forest resources and uses.

NIOBRARA RANGER DISTRICT PLAN

District Management Situation

The Niobrara Ranger District comprises the Niobrara Division, the Pine Ridge Land Utilization Project, and the Sugar Loaf Land Utilization Project. The Pine Ridge L.U. Project constitutes the Chadron and West Management units; and the Sugar Loaf L.U. Unit constitutes the Sugar Loaf Management Unit.

Niobrara Unit

The Niobrara Unit comprises 116,741 acres of which 115,638 acres are Government owned and 1,103 acres privately owned.

The Unit is about 30 miles southwest of Valentine; it is about 50 miles northwest of the Bessey District. The Unit is situated immediately west of the confluence of the Niobrara and Snake Rivers. The Niobrara River flows along the north side just outside the boundary, while the Snake River occupies a similar position along the easterly and southerly boundaries.

Like the Bessey District, the soils of the Niobrara Unit are largely aeolian sand with some intercalated clay lenses. There are several large "blowouts" caused by cattle concentrations around water wells.

Precipitation and temperature ranges are entirely comparable to those on the Bessey District (18-22 inches and minus 34° to 109°). Nenzel, the local post office, is situated on U.S. Highway No. 20, or 17.9 miles to the north. A good graveled road from Nenzel serves the Unit. Other lesser roads also provide access.

The Unit has 2,500 acres of satisfactory plantations; one block is south of the ranger station in the southwesterly portion of the area and another is in the north central portion. Firebreaks protect these plantations.

Grazing is the principal use and will undoubtedly continue so. The entire Unit is divided into fenced pastures, each with water wells. Many more wells are needed for satisfactory utilization and management.

The Unit has three of the largest grazing permits in Region 2 and the permittees are active in the National Livestock Association. Local stockmen are represented by the Niobrara Stockmen's Association which is influential and of long standing.

A considerable deer population uses the area. Sharp tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken have sustained satisfactory populations.

One roadside picnic ground has been developed near the ranger station and this satisfies the need at present.

If and when the proposed Merritt Reservoir is constructed on the southeast corner of the Unit, recreation and wildlife will require much more attention in this vicinity.

Both sides of the Niobrara River support sparse and scattered ponderosa pine stands containing high potentials for recreation and timber. Another reclamation reservoir is planned on the Niobrara river North of this division.

Fair growths of ponderosa pine also occur along the Snake River. For a distance of 10 miles from its mouth, the stream flows through one of the roughest canyons in Nebraska and, en route, it cascades over the spectacular Snake River Falls. This gorge is not unlike many of those in the mountainous States.

An oiled Forest highway crosses the Unit from north to south. The remainder of the area is accessible by a network of relatively unimproved vehicle trails.

Nine thousand acres in the north central part of the Unit are proposed for a Sandhills Forest and Range Experimental Area to be operated by the University of Nebraska Agricultural Station. The proposal has been well received but awaits State legislative authorization.

Chadron and West Units

The Chadron and West Units comprise 102,392 acres of which 39,134 acres are Government owned, 6,320 acres State owned, and 59,938 acres privately owned. These Units are coextensive with the Pine Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District and are situated along the Pine Ridge escarpment a few miles south of Chadron. State Highway No. 2 runs north and south through the westerly portion and several north-south county roads traverse other portions; there are a few minor roads elsewhere. U.S. Highway No. 385 traverses the main central eastern portion from north to south.

The top of the Pine Ridge escarpment is a flat, mostly open tableland. From this surface, the escarpment breaks off abruptly to the north into a series of rather steep, narrow draws and gulches which soon converge into larger drainages with lesser gradients to the White River.

The country rock is the Arikaree sandstone which contains some intercalated clays. The "Rosebud" soils are largely derived from this formation. Along the escarpment, erosion has carved these sediments into fantastic and picturesque shapes and has cut numerous

gullies into the deep, fine soils.

Annual precipitation tends to fluctuate within wide limits and may vary from 9 inches during dry periods to 36 inches during wet cycles. The average precipitation is 17.19 inches of which most occurs from April to September. Temperatures range from -37° to 111°.

Timber and forage are the principal resources of the units. Approximately 21,663 acres (58%) of the Government lands are covered with timber or are potential timber lands best suited to that use. These lands are situated generally in the steeper drainage areas and are characterized by thrifty stands of timber in the sharply cut gulches and on the intervening hills and ridges. Ponderosa pine is the principal species although some native hardwoods occur in most of the drainage bottoms. The timber has been cut over almost every decade since the latter part of the nineteenth century and practically all of the residual stands need treatment to bring them up to optimum potentials. Current timber surveys indicate there are 29,663 acres stocked to a 10% or greater density. This represents a total volume of 500,000 M. cubic feet of which 64,600 M. feet, b.m. is saw timber, mostly low grade.

During the 1890's there were 65 sawmills in the vicinity producing lumber for buildings and railroad ties. It is estimated that over 4,500 houses were built from this lumber.

About 16,000 acres, (40%) of the government ownership, are grazing lands. Approximately 400 acres of old cultivation are being revegetated as rapidly as possible. All of the potential grazing lands are under permit to the Pine Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District. Range analyses indicate some adjustments in livestock numbers. More intensive management is needed to obtain a satisfactory range condition. (F.S. to establish carrying capacities.)

Lands in these Units provide the principal habitat for approximately 3,500 deer. Adequate browse and other vegetation to sustain this herd must be maintained and coordinated with grazing use. Browse species are reaching a critical stage of depletion and a utilization transect study is in progress. In 1959, 3,000 deer hunting permits were issued by the State for the Chadron and West Units and 60% of the hunters were successful.

Chadron State Park is the only developed recreation area within these Units but there are other recreation potentials to be developed. Local residents are becoming increasingly interested in summer homes and other recreation activities.

Government lands within these Units were originally submarginal farm tracts purchased under provisions of Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Act during the 1930's and transferred to Forest Service administration in 1954. In 1959 the Department of Agriculture decided to continue

these lands in Federal ownership whereupon Region 2 recommended they be given national forest status. Presently, the grazing resources are used by the Pine Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District under an agreement which expires in 1962.

The Chadron Unit probably has the best potential for recreation development in the State. The Chadron State Park is situated along the west side of U.S. Highway No. 385 and receives increasing use each year. Seven hundred seventy additional acres are under free permit to the Nebraska State Forestation and Parks Commission for use in conjunction with the park, but no use is presently made of this additional tract.

The Methodist Organization Camp, sponsored by the western Nebraska Church Association, occupies private land adjacent to Chadron State Park.

Chadron is the principal town near the Unit; it is served by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, Frontier Airlines, U.S. Highway No. 385, and No. 20. Chadron State Teachers College is located at Chadron. The town receives its water supply from Chadron Creek which rises within the Unit.

Crawford is a few miles northwest of the West Unit; it is served by the Chicago, Burlington, Quincy, and Chicago Northwestern Railroads which cross here. The town is also on State Highway No. 2 and U.S. Highway No. 20. The former Fort Robinson Military Reservation contains a beef research station, a State Park facility, and the regional SCS training school. This is just northwest of Crawford. A Federal Fish Hatchery is located at Crawford.

Crawford has a population of 1600 and Chadron 5000. In common with all of rural Nebraska, the population trend in this region is slowly downward, while urban areas increase.

Most of the Chadron and West Units are embraced in a tax-supported rural fire protection district combined with the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department. The Chadron Fire Department also cooperates with the State Forester under the Clark-McNary Act. Presently, fire control responsibility on the Government lands is vested in the Pine Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District board as part of the L.U. lease agreement.

Sugar Loaf Unit

The Sugar Loaf Unit comprises 225,335 acres of which 94,173 acres are Government owned, 12,475 acres State owned, and 122,320 privately owned.

The Unit lies north of the White River and the north and west boundaries abut South Dakota and Wyoming, respectively.

Climatic conditions are similar to the Chadron Unit a few miles to the southeast, however, generally less precipitation is experienced.

The Unit is characterized by rolling hills. The country rock is largely Pierre shale from which the overlying shallow clay soils derive.

Vegetative cover is predominantly a short grass type; there is no timber on the Unit. Soils are critically erosive and "bad lands" form readily once the grass cover is broken. Runoff is normally rapid and erosion is extreme on the "bad land" areas. One section of the "bad lands" exposes sandstone layers and is known locally as Toadstool Park; it has some recreation potential.

Before purchase by the Government, some of the tracts were plowed and farmed with rather disastrous results to both land and farmer.

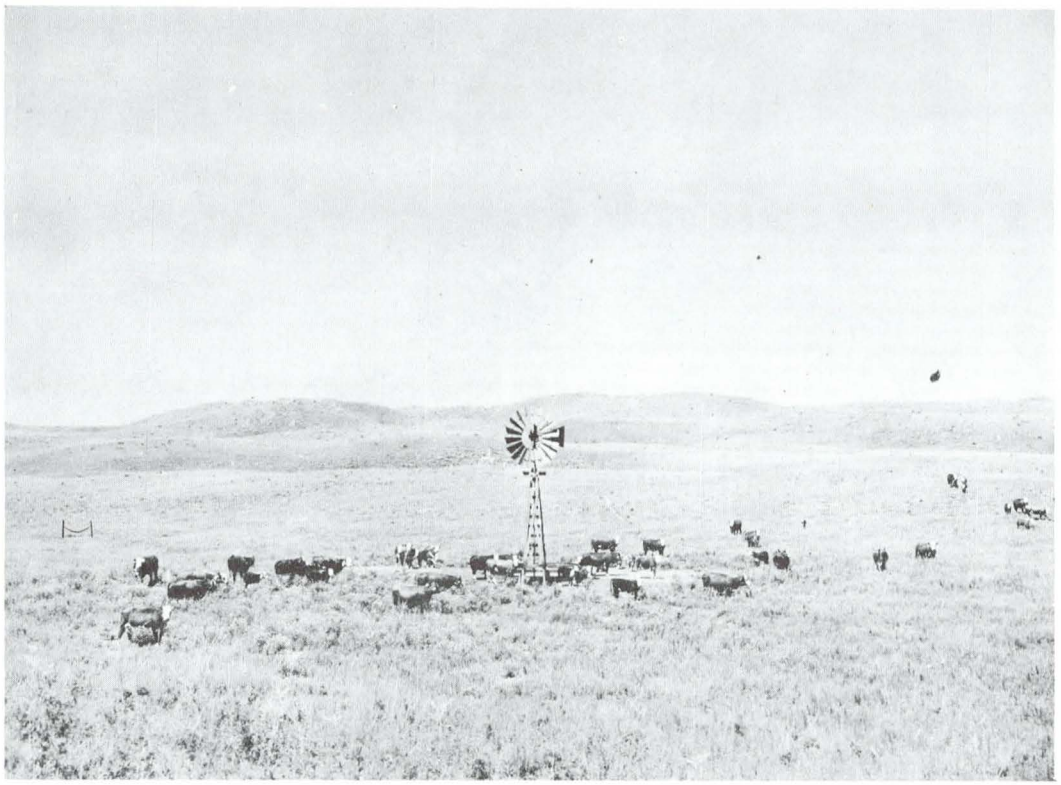
Most of the Unit is drained by Hat Creek which flows northerly into the Cheyenne River above Angostura Reservoir. In the past, the Hat Creek watershed has been a serious silt contributor to the reservoir. Siltation has been retarded by reseeding and improved range management both on government and private lands.

Forage is the principal resource. Ranchers on lands interspersed with Government tracts are becoming increasingly cooperative and are adopting better grazing practices.

Antelope and upland game birds are relatively plentiful.

The Government lands are under lease to the Sugar Loaf Soil and Water Conservation District. Both boundaries coincide. State Highway No. 2, a good graveled road, traverses the central portion of the Project from north to south; the road parallels the C. B. & Q. Railroad.

Fire prevention and control are important. The volunteer fire departments of Crawford and Ardmore are tied in with Unit fire plans under cooperative agreement.



Windmills are a Basic Factor in Range Management
on the Niobrara Unit

Niobrara River, Adjacent to Niobrara Unit

DISTRICT MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

1. NIOBRARA UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Range - Primary

Wildlife and Research - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain and improve the soil and vegetative cover.

2. Develop and demonstrate improved range management practices.

3. Develop timbered areas for livestock and game protection on north and east slopes.

4. Provide food and habitat for a predetermined wildlife population.

5. Cooperate with Research Station personnel when the station is established.

6. Develop recreation sites to the extent possible.

7. Develop land adjustment programs.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Range

1. Develop any range management practices such as deferred and rotation grazing, to improve carrying capacity for livestock and wildlife.

2. Bring all usable range, as determined by range analysis, to maximum production through sound range management practices and use of physical improvements.

3. Revegetate blowouts and prevent their reccurrence.

4. Develop demonstration areas.

5. Construct and maintain range improvements which will prevent blowouts.

6. Study the feasibility of reactivating "Steer Creek."

7. Develop water impoundments where feasible.

8. Require the use of Nebraska produced wood products in range improvements normally constructed of wood.

9. Harvest desirable grass seed that is not otherwise readily obtainable.

10. Revegetate range with best proven strains of grass.

Recreation

1. Protect aesthetic values.

2. Plan and develop facilities to keep pace with demand.

Timber

1. Plant suitable north and east slopes to benefit livestock and wildlife management. Experiment with species heretofore not used.

2. Plant trees along the Forest Highway No. 4 where feasible.

Soils

1. Maintain a suitable vegetative cover to prevent blowouts.

2. Prevent and correct soil disturbances.

Special Land Uses

1. Issue special use permits only for range and wildlife purposes.

2. Place the 9,000 acre research area under special use permit to the University of Nebraska Research Division when State enabling legislation is enacted.

Wildlife

1. Develop and provide water and habitat for wildlife.

2. Provide plantation exclosures where practical.

3. Improve habitat and management practices favoring population increase and preservation of the Greater Prairie Chicken.

4. Maintain wildlife populations at a predetermined level.

5. Protect and maintain grouse "booming" grounds and "heronries" for herons.

6. Use extreme caution in predator control to safeguard wildlife and the public.

Forest Insects and Diseases

1. Control insects and diseases.

Fire

1. Plant firebreaks with fire-retardent vegetation. Give preference to vegetative species suitable for wildlife food.

2. Mow grass along roads, trails and firebreaks for fire control purposes.

3. Strengthen the mutual Fire Assistance organization with the adjacent Counties and Towns.

Engineering

1. Locate and develop the transportation system to benefit management of resources.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public about the Nebraska National Forest programs and activities.

2. Create and maintain an example of good multiple use land management.

3. Develop good working relationships with all State and Federal Agencies.

4. Develop interpretive devices along main transportation routes.

Lands

1. Acquire private lands within the exterior boundary.

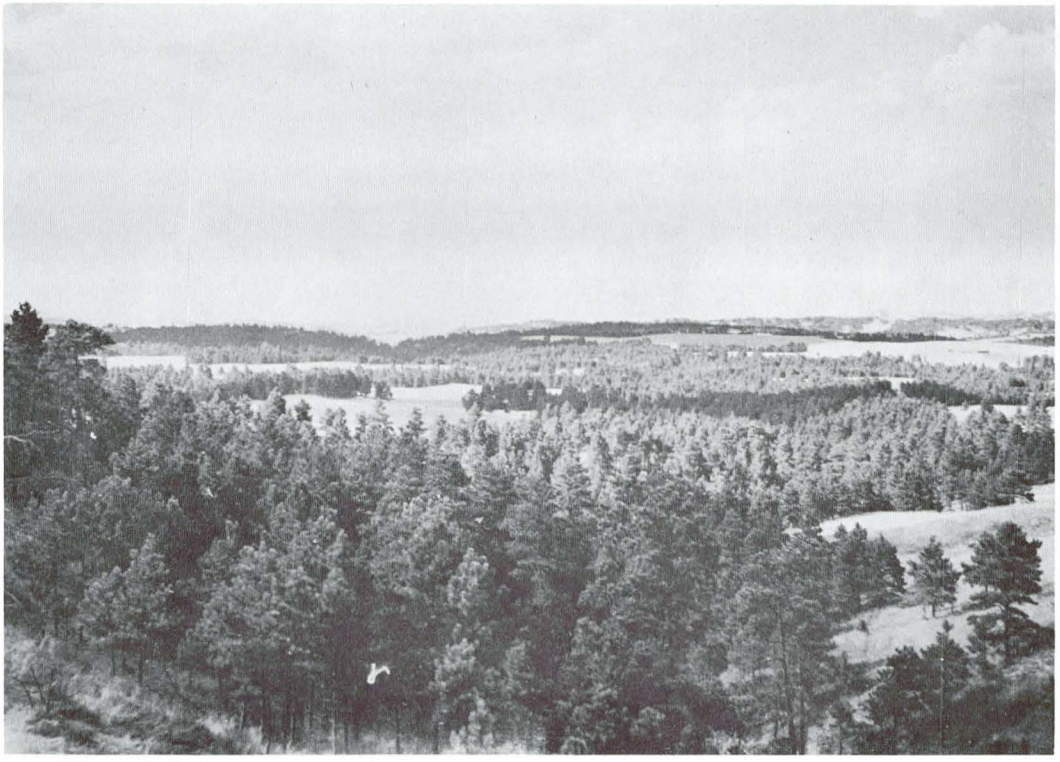
2. Study the feasibility of extending the Division exterior boundary to include the Niobrara and Snake River areas.

State and Private Forestry

1. Cooperate with all organizations interested in Forestry programs.

Research

1. Cooperate with research agencies.



Chadron Creek Drainage – Chadron L. U. Unit

Ponderosa Pine Stand Near Chadron – Chadron L. U. Unit

2. CHADRON UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Watershed and Soil - Primary

Timber - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Manage all resources and uses to maintain optimum watershed condition.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Range

1. Bring all usable range to optimum production through sound range management practices and physical improvements.

2. Exclude livestock from plantations and from recreation areas during recreation use seasons.

3. Develop range management practices with full consideration for the needs of the wildlife populations.

4. Manage livestock to prevent contamination and pollution of municipal and domestic water supplies.

Recreation

1. Develop recreation areas in locations where they will not conflict with the Chadron State Park developments.

Timber

1. Develop a timber management plan and sales program.

2. Adopt silvicultural practices that benefit other resources.

3. Develop a tree planting program for understocked potential timber sites.

4. Manage timber to maintain watershed, aesthetic, and recreational values.

5. Plant cut over areas when natural reproduction is not obtained within five years.

6. Complete slash abatement at recreation developments and within roadside zones. Elsewhere slash will be lopped and scattered with provision to break up extensive slash areas with suitable firebreaks.

7. Cooperate with the State Forester in the management of the timber resource on private lands.

Soils

1. Maintain a suitable vegetative ground cover.

2. Prevent or correct soil disturbances.

3. Use necessary measures to control gully erosion.

4. Develop a rehabilitation plan for the Chadron Creek Watershed.

Special Land Uses

1. Cancel free lease to State Park.

2. Exchange lands with the State for recreation use areas on the north side of Chadron State Park when the state owned lands are completely developed.

3. Issue special use permits to individuals only when the use will benefit the resource and the general public.

4. Prohibit resorts and summer homes in the Chadron Creek Watershed.

5. Hold issuance of Special Use Permits to absolute minimum.

Wildlife

1. Provide food and habitat needs for wildlife consistent with other resource objectives.

2. Determine desirable wildlife populations consistent with the needs of other resources and maintain them through sound management and cooperation with the State.

3. Cooperate with other agencies to introduce additional wildlife species.

4. Develop plans for wildlife habitat studies and programs to determine game range capacities and need for game and bird harvests.

Forest Insect and Diseases

1. Control insects and diseases.

Minerals

1. Cooperate with claimants in bona fide mineral activities.

2. Cover all mineral activities with suitable permits and bonds.

3. Recommend appropriate stipulations for gas and oil leases, when needed for protection of Government lands.

4. Withdraw recreation areas and roadside scenic strips from mineral entry.

Fire

1. Strengthen cooperative plans and actions with other agencies in fire control activities.

2. Revise lease agreement with the Pine Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District to place responsibility for fire control on Government lands with the Forest Service.

3. Complete necessary fire control studies and analyses by spring of 1961.

4. Develop slash abatement policy for all timber cutting so as to insure optimum fire control conditions on cut-over areas.

Engineering

1. Develop a transportation plan to facilitate administration and protection of the several resources and uses. Adopt road locations which will preserve aesthetic and recreation values.

2. Develop cooperative relationships with County and State Highway Departments to prevent occupancy trespass.

3. Cooperate with State and County Highway Departments where their road systems cross Government lands and obtain satisfactory engineering practices to protect soil and watershed resources and values.

4. Develop a planimetric base map and record resource information data.

5. Develop a satisfactory radio communications network using Chadron as a central station.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public of the Nebraska National Forest programs and activities.

2. Create and maintain classic example of multiple use management.

3. Develop good working relationships with all State and Federal Agencies.

4. Develop interpretive devices along the main transportation routes.

Lands

1. Develop and activitate a complete land exchange plan.

2. Manage resources under National Forest procedures when present Soil and Water Conservation District agreement expires.

State and Private Forestry

1. Cooperate with all organizations interested in forestry programs.

Research

1. Cooperate with research in projects jointly developed.

Area Adjacent to Fort Robinson – West L. U. Unit

Regional Forester Clark and Supervisor Gaylor Inspecting Posts and Poles
from T.S.I. Thinnings – West L. U. Unit

GPO 837724

3. WEST UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Timber - Primary

Grazing and Wildlife - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Manage and harvest timber on a sustained yield basis consistent with satisfactory watershed conditions.

2. Recognize, protect, and develop public recreation areas.

3. Avoid pollution and contamination of water supplies by means of proper watershed management practices.

4. Manage usable livestock range within the limits of the determined carrying capacity.

5. Provide optimum food, cover, and water for game on a sustained basis, consistent with other resource values.

6. Develop a complete multiple use program.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Range

1. Bring all usable range to maximum production through sound range management practices and physical improvements.

2. Exclude livestock from plantations and from recreation areas during recreation use seasons.

3. Develop range management practices with full consideration for the needs of the wildlife populations.

4. Manage livestock to prevent contamination and pollution of municipal and domestic water supplies.

Recreation

1. Develop recreation sites as needed.

Timber

1. Develop a timber management plan and sales program.

2. Adopt silvicultural practices which will not be unnecessarily detrimental to other resources.

3. Develop a tree planting program for understocked potential timber sites.

4. Manage timber to maintain watershed, aesthetic, and recreational values.

5. Plant cut over areas.

6. Complete slash abatement at recreation developments and within roadside zones.

7. Cooperate with the State Forester in the management of the timber resource on private lands.

Soils

1. Maintain a suitable vegetative ground cover.

2. Prevent or correct soil disturbances.

3. Use all necessary measures to control erosion.

Special Land Uses

1. Issue special use permits to individuals only when the use will benefit the resource and the general public.

Wildlife

1. Provide food and habitat needs for wildlife consistent with other resource objectives.

2. Determine desirable wildlife populations consistent with the needs of other resources and maintain them through sound management and cooperation with the State.

3. Cooperate with other agencies to introduce additional wildlife species.

4. Develop plans for wildlife habitat studies and program to determine game range capacities and need for game and bird harvests.

Forest Insects and Diseases

1. Control insects and diseases.

Minerals

1. Cooperate with claimants in bona fide mineral activities.

2. Cover all mineral activities with suitable permits and bonds.

3. Recommend appropriate stipulations for gas and oil leases, when needed for protection of government lands.

4. Withdraw recreation areas and roadside scenic strips from mineral entry.

Fire

1. Strengthen cooperative plans and actions with other agencies in fire control activities.

2. Immediately revise lease agreement with the Pine Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District to place responsibility for fire control on Government lands with the Forest Service.

3. Complete necessary fire control studies and analyses by spring of 1961.

4. Develop clash abatement policy for all timber cutting to insure optimum fire control conditions on cut-over areas.

Engineering

1. Develop a transportation plan to facilitate administration and protection of the several resources and uses. Plan roads which will preserve aesthetic and recreation values.

2. Develop cooperative relationships with County and State Highway Departments to prevent occupancy trespass.

3. Cooperate with State and County Highway Departments where their road systems cross Government lands and obtain satisfactory engineering practices to protect soil and watershed resources and values.

4. Develop a planimetric base map and record resource information data.

5. Develop a satisfactory radio communications network using Chadron as a central station.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public of the Nebraska National Forest program and activities.

2. Create and maintain an example of classic multiple use management.

3. Develop good working relationships with all State and Federal Agencies.

4. Develop interpretive devices along the main transportation routes.

Lands

1. Develop and activitate a complete land exchange plan.

2. Manage resources under National Forest procedures when present Soil and Water Conservation District agreement expires.

State and Private Forestry

1. Cooperate with all organizations interested in forestry programs.

Research

1. Cooperate with research in projects jointly developed.

Badlands – Sugarloaf L. U. Unit

One of the Better Range Allotments – Sugarloaf L. U. Unit

4. SUGAR LOAF UNIT

MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Watershed and Soils - Primary

Range and Wildlife - Secondary

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain vegetative cover to prevent soil movement.

2. Develop and demonstrate improved range management practices.

3. Provide food and habitat cover for a predetermined wildlife population.

4. Develop afforested areas for livestock and game protection and demonstration on selected site, primarily on north and east slopes.

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Range

1. Develop range management practices, such as deferred and rotation grazing, to improve carrying capacity for both livestock and wildlife.

2. Bring all usable range, as determined by range analysis, to maximum production through sound range management practices and use of physical improvements.

3. Revegetate depleted range areas and manage them to prevent reccurrence.

4. Determine the needs of predetermined wildlife populations.

5. Develop and protect range water improvements to facilitate range and wildlife management and soil stabilization.

Recreation

1. Prepare a recreation plan for and develop the Toadstool Park recreation area.

Timber

1. Plant suitable north and east slope sites and around reservoir sites to benefit range and wildlife resource values.

Soils

1. Maintain a suitable vegetative ground cover.

2. Prevent or correct soil disturbances.

3. Use necessary measures to control gully erosion.

Special Land Uses

1. Issue special use permits only when the purpose is consistent with good land management practices.

2. Location or construction of roads or trails by permittees County or State shall be integrated with Forest Service transportation plans.

3. Require a clause in special use permits to correct any soil disturbance.

Wildlife

1. Provide food and habitat for wildlife consistent with other resource objectives.

2. Determine desirable wildlife populations consistent with the needs of other resources and maintain them through sound management and cooperation with the State.

3. Consider wildlife needs when planning and developing other resources and uses.

4. Develop plans for wildlife habitat studies and programs to determine game range capacities and need for game and bird harvests.

Forest Insects and Diseases

1. Control insects and diseases.

Minerals

1. Cooperate with claimants on bona fide mineral activities.

2. Cover all mineral activity with suitable permits and bonds.

3. Recommend appropriate stipulations for gas and oil leases, when needed for protection of the Government lands.

4. Withdraw recreation areas and roadside scenic strips from mineral entry.

Fire

1. Strengthen cooperative plans and actions with other agencies working in fire control activities.

2. Revise the lease agreement with the Sugar Loaf Soil and Water Conservation District to place responsibility for fire control on Government lands with the Forest Service by 1961.

3. Complete necessary fire control studies and analyses by spring of 1961.

Engineering

1. Develop a transportation plan to facilitate administration and protection of the several resources and uses.

2. Develop cooperative relationships with County and State Highway Departments to prevent occupancy trespass.

3. Cooperate with the State and County Highway Departments when their road systems cross Government lands and obtain satisfactory engineering practices to protect soil and watershed resources and values.

4. Develop a planimetric base map and record resource information data.

Information and Education

1. Inform the public and individuals of the Nebraska National Forest Programs and activities.

2. Create and maintain an example of multiple use land management.

3. Develop good working relationships with all State and Federal Agencies.

4. Develop interpretive devices along the main transportation routes.

Lands

1. Develop and activate a land exchange plan.

2. Manage resources under National Forest multiple use concept when the present Soil and Water Conservation District agreement expires.

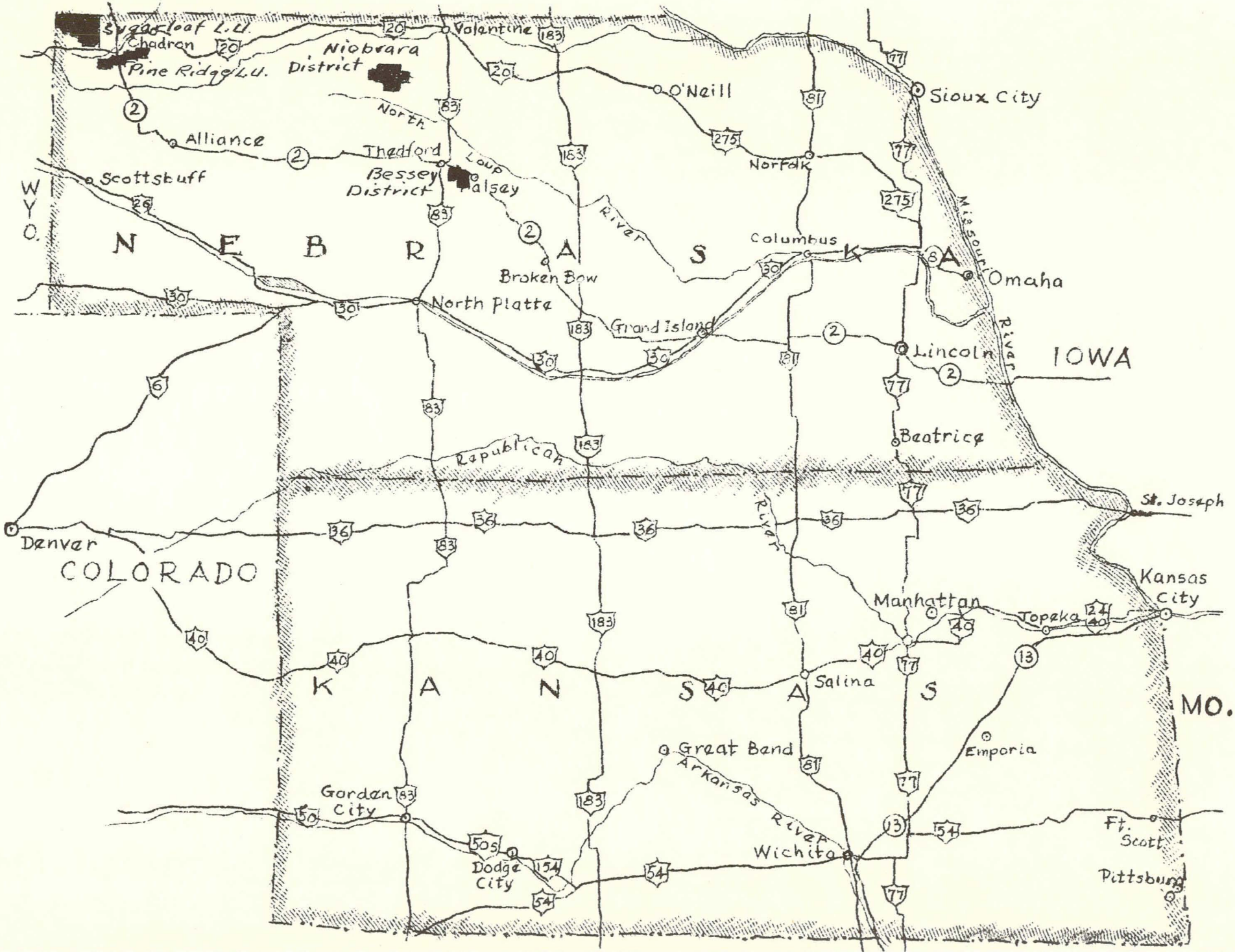
State and Private Forestry

1. Cooperate with all organizations interested in forestry programs.

Research

1. Cooperate with research in all projects jointly developed.

VII. APPENDIX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Chadron
Pine Ridge L.U.
Niobrara
District
Valentine
O'Neill
Sioux City
Alliance
Thedford
Loup
Bessey
District
Halsey
Norfolk
Scottsbuff
WYO.
NEBRASKA
Columbus
Missouri
River
Omaha
Broken Bow
North Platte
Grand Island
Lincoln
IOWA
Beatrice
Republican
River
St. Joseph
Denver
COLORADO
Kansas
City
Manhattan
Topeka
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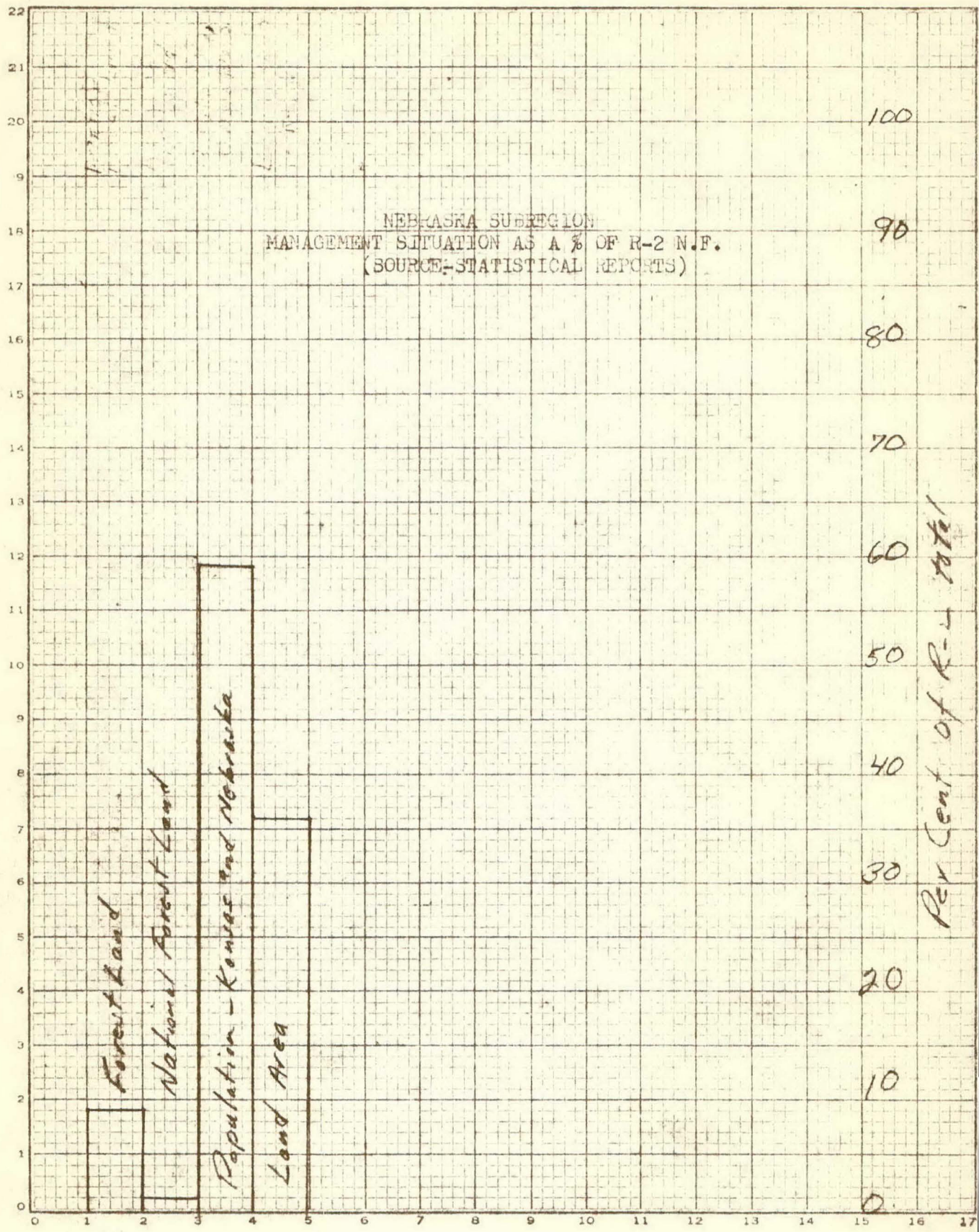

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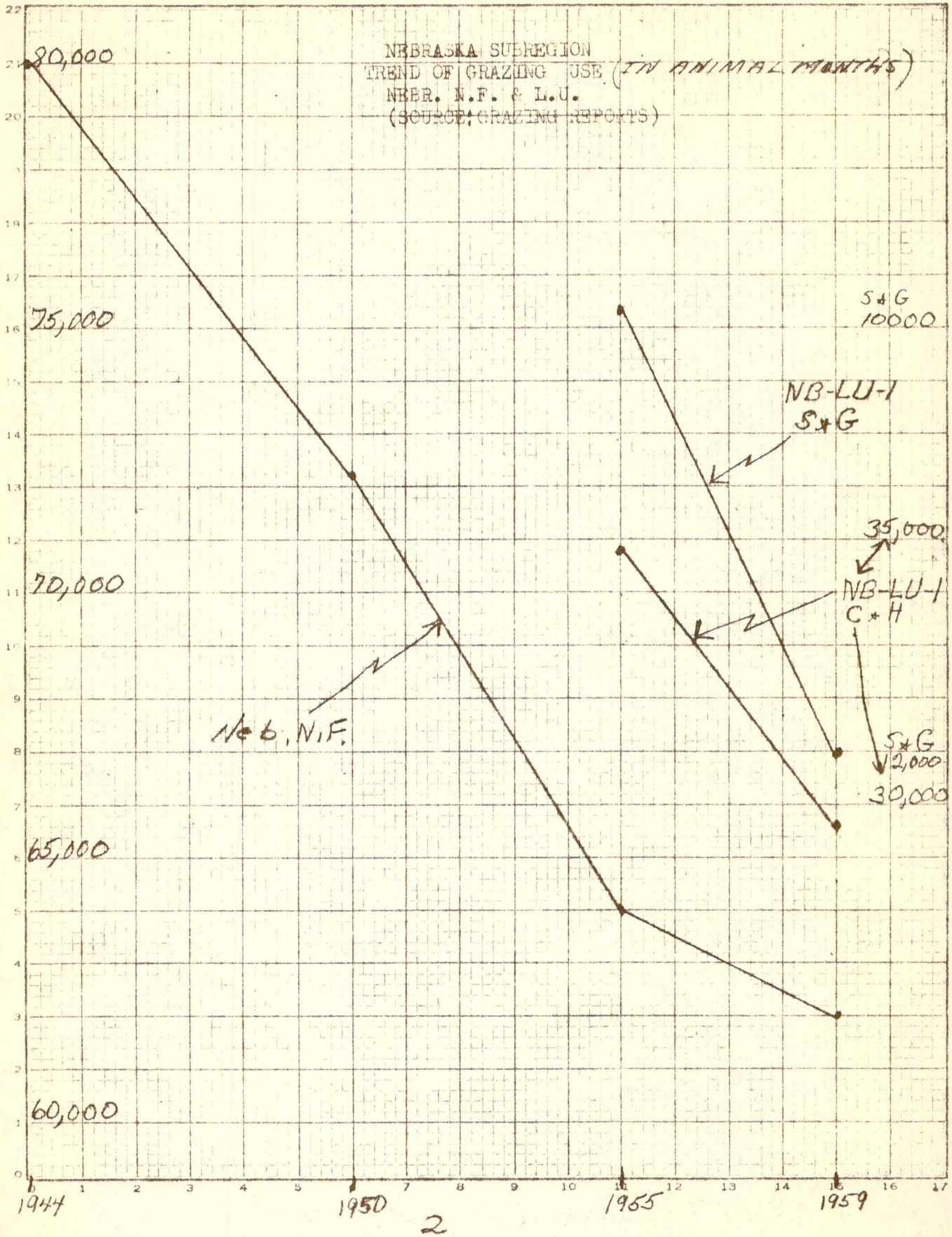

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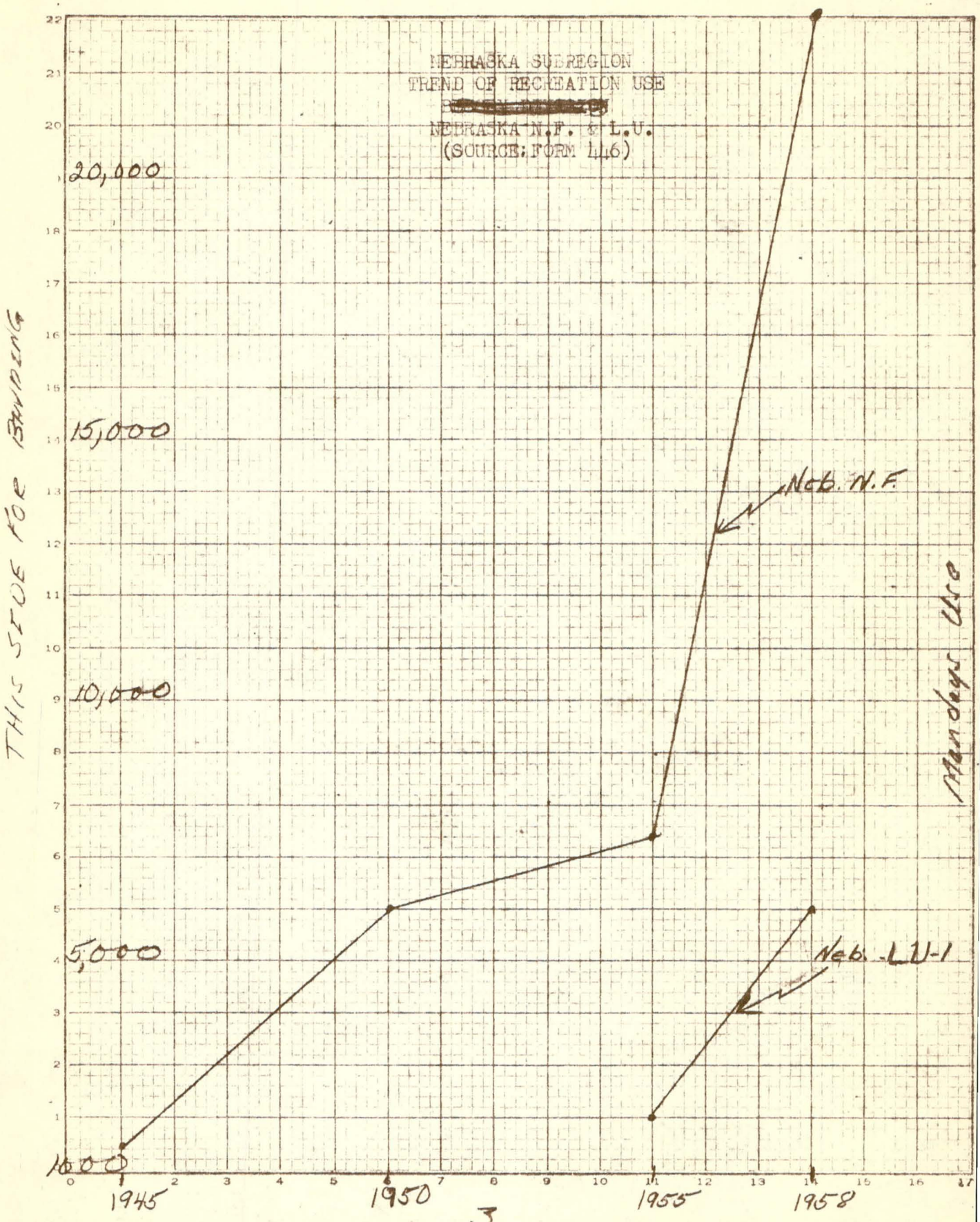
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TREND OF RECREATION USE
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NEBRASKA N.F. & L.U.
(SOURCE: FORM L46)
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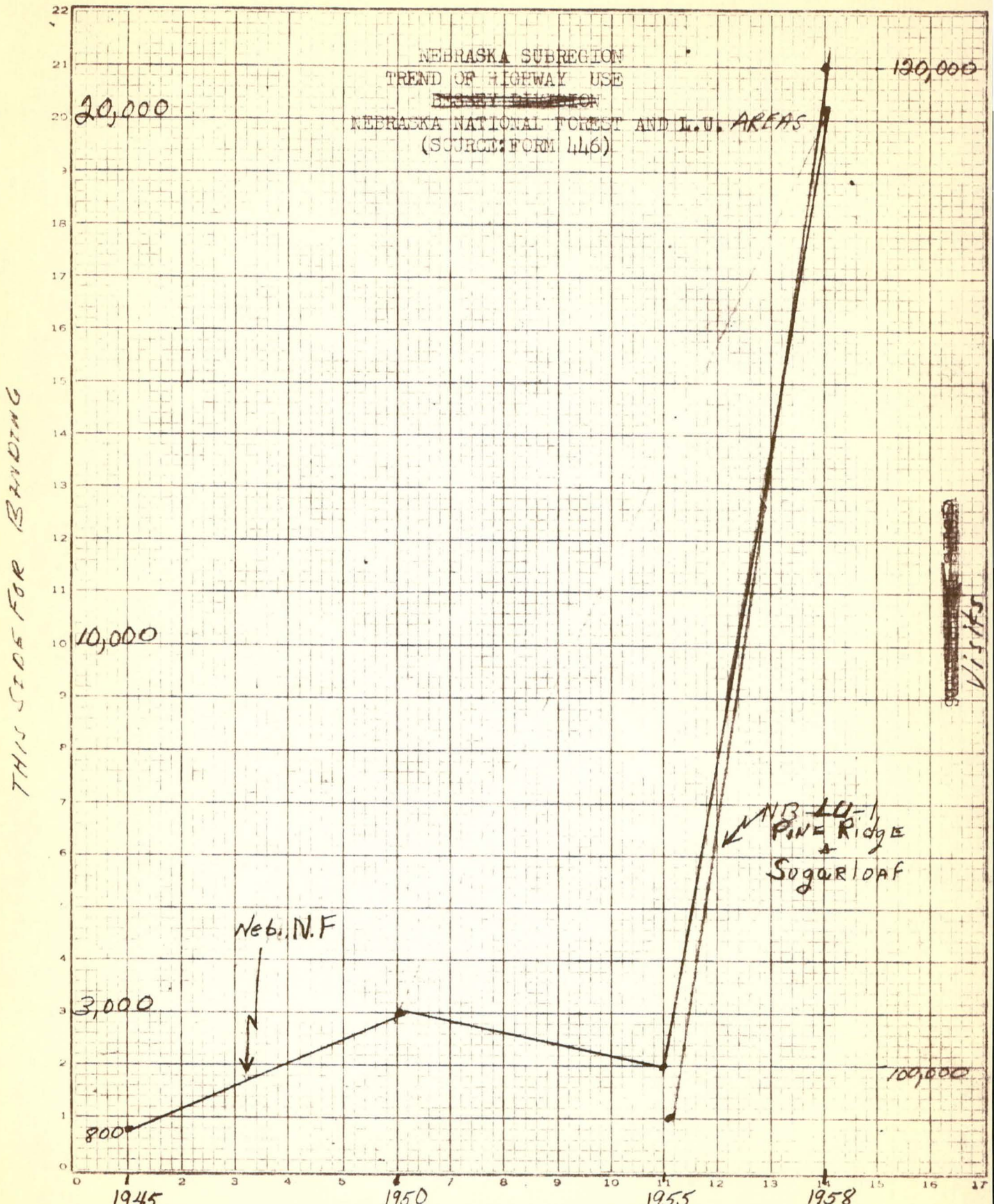
Neb. LU-1
THIS SPACE FOR STANDING
MAN DAYS USE


NEBRASKA SUBREGION
TREND OF HIGHWAY USE
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST AND L.U. AREAS
(SOURCE: FORM 446)
20,000
10,000
3,000
800
120,000
100,000
Neb. N.F
NB-10-1
PINE Ridge
+
Sugarloaf
1945
1950
1955
1958
THIS SIDE FOR BINDING